GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3619
ANSWERED ON:07.04.2003
PRODUCTION OF FOODGRAINS
RAMPAL SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the drought situation in the country during the years 2002-03 the production of foodgrains is estimated to be lowest in the last seven years; and

(b) the details of arrangements made by the Government?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): During the last seven years (1995-96 to 2001-02), the lowest production of foodgrains at 180.42 million tonnes was recorded in 1995-96. The estimated production of foodgrains in 2002-03 is 183.17 million tonnes, which exceeds the foodgrains production in 1995-96.

(b): As the stock position of rice and wheat in the country is much above the buffer norm, there is no crisis. However, in order to enable the farmers to achieve higher level of production and productivity, a number of initiatives have been taken by the Government. Taking into account the increase in input costs caused by drought in 2002-2003, the Government have announced onetime Special Drought Relief Price varying from Rs.5 to Rs.20 per quintal for various crops, over andabove the Minimum Support Price.Other measures include promotion of watershed development, development and promotion of new technology etc.